

Application No. 10/024,266
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I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all the claims on file with the following listing of claims including their status as effected by the present amendment.

1) (currently amended) A method to facilitate procurement of information from a user operating a computer, comprising:

- a) delivering information to the user from the computer prompting the user to enter at the computer information identifying a project;
- b) delivering information to the user from the computer prompting the user to perform at the computer an action to specify accounting information that is associated to the project, said accounting information being used to track any one of expenses, disbursements and billable time~~and related to billing~~;
- c) delivering information to the user from the computer prompting the user to provide to the computer customer relation information that is associated to the project, said customer relation information being separate from information that is used to track any one of expenses, disbursements and billable time~~but unrelated to billing~~.

2) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein in response to the user

- i) providing information identifying the project;
- ii) performing the action to specify the accounting information that is associated to the project~~and related to billing~~; and
- iii) providing the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~, the method further comprises:
 - (1) generating a first message including data identifying the project and data specifying the accounting information that is associated to the project~~and related to billing~~;
 - (2) generating a second message including at least a portion of the

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information identifying the project and the customer relation
information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to~~
~~billing~~; and

(3) sending the first message and the second messages to different
respective destinations.

- 3) (original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the delivering of information to the user from the computer prompting the user to enter at the computer information identifying a project is done by displaying information on a screen.
- 4) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the delivering of information to the user from the computer prompting the user to perform at the computer an action to specify accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ is done by displaying information on the screen.
- 5) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the delivering of information to the user from the computer prompting the user to provide to the computer customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~ is done by displaying information on the screen.
- 6) (original) A method as defined in claim 5 wherein the information identifying the project includes an identifier of a client.
- 7) (original) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the information identifying the project includes a matter identifier.
- 8) (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the user provides the information identifying the project through an input device selected from the group consisting of keyboard, pointing device, touch

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sensitive surface and speech recognition unit.

- 9) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes information selected from the group consisting of time information and expense information.
- 10) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes time information and wherein the action performed at the computer by the user to specify the time information includes entering through an input device a time interval.
- 11) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes time information and wherein the action performed at the computer by the user to specify the time information includes starting and stopping a clock through the input device.
- 12) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 7, wherein the providing of the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~ is done through the input device.
- 13) (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~ is selected from the group consisting of business development information, project notes and information relating to an order process.
- 14) (original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the second message is sent to a knowledge database.

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- 15) (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 14, further comprising:
- a) delivering information to the user from the computer prompting the user to enter at the computer search criteria for searching the knowledge database;
 - b) searching the knowledge database on the basis of the search criteria to derive matching information;
 - c) delivering the matching information to the user of the computer.
- 16) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium containing a program element for execution by a CPU, said program element comprising:
- a) a first program element component for causing a computer to display first information to the user, the first information prompting the user to enter at a computer information identifying a project;
 - b) a second program element component for causing the computer to display second information to the user, prompting the user to perform at the computer an action to specify accounting information that is associated to the project, said accounting information being used to track any one of expenses, disbursements and billable time~~and related to billing~~;
 - c) a third program element component for causing the computer to display third information to the user, prompting the user to provide to the computer customer relation information that is associated to the project, said customer relation information being separate from information that is used to track any one of expenses, disbursements and billable time~~but unrelated to billing~~.
- 17) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 16, wherein said program element further comprises a message generator program element component responsive to data representative of information identifying the project, data representative of the customer

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relation information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ and data representative of the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~, for:

- i) generating a first message including data identifying the project and data specifying the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~;
 - ii) generating a second message including at least a portion of the information identifying the project and the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~;
 - iii) sending the first and the second messages to different respective destinations.
- 18) (original) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 17, wherein the CPU resides on a server machine and the computer is a client machine in a network arrangement with the server machine.
- 19) (original) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 17, wherein the computer is a client machine in a network arrangement with a server machine and wherein the CPU resides in the computer.
- 20) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 18, wherein the first, second and third program element components generate control messages to the client machine to cause the client machine to display the information identifying the project, the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ and the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing information~~ to the user, respectively.
- 21) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 20, wherein the control messages are HTTP messages and the client machine displays the information identifying the project, the

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accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ and the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing information~~ to the user through a browser.

- 22) (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 21, wherein the information identifying the project includes an identifier of a client.
- 23) (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 22, wherein the information identifying the project includes a matter identifier.
- 24) (original) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 17, wherein said program element includes a destination selector program element component for causing the computer to display further information to the user for allowing the user to select a destination for the second message.
- 25) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 16, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes information selected from the group consisting of time information and expense information.
- 26) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 16, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes time information and wherein the action performed at the computer by the user to specify the time information includes entering through an input device a time interval.
- 27) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 16, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes time information and wherein the

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action performed at the computer by the user to specify the time information includes starting and stopping a clock through the input device.

- 28) (original) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 17, wherein said message generator program element component directs the first message to a knowledge database.
- 29) (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 28, wherein said program element further comprises a fourth program element component for causing the computer to display further information to the user and prompting the user to provide to the computer a search criteria for searching the knowledge database.
- 30) (original) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 29, wherein said program element includes a search engine to search the knowledge database on the basis of the search criteria to generate matching information.
- 31) (original) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 30, wherein said fourth program element component causes the computer to display the matching information to the user.
- 32) (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 16, wherein the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~ is selected from the group consisting of business development information, project notes and information relating to an order process.
- 33) (currently amended) A system to facilitate procurement of information from a user, comprising:
- a) a computer;

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- b) a computer readable storage medium containing a program element for execution by a CPU, said program element including:
 - i) a first program element component for causing said computer to display first information to the user, the first information prompting the user to enter at said computer information identifying a project;
 - ii) a second program element component for causing the computer to display second information to the user, prompting the user to perform at the computer an action to specify accounting information that is associated to the project, said accounting information being used to track any one of expenses, disbursements and billable time~~and related to billing~~;
 - iii) a third program element component for causing the computer to display third information to the user, prompting the user to provide to the computer customer relation information that is associated to the project, said customer relation information being separate from information that is used to track any one of expenses, disbursements and billable time~~but unrelated to billing~~.

34) (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 33, wherein said program element includes a message generator program element component responsive to data representative of information identifying the project, data representative of accounting information that is associated to the project~~and related to billing~~ and data representative of the customer relation information that is associated to the project~~but unrelated to billing~~, for:

- i) generating a first message including data identifying the project and data specifying the accounting information that is associated to the project~~and related to billing~~;
- ii) generating a second message including at least a portion of the information identifying the project and data specifying customer relation information that is associated to the project~~but unrelated~~

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~~to billing;~~

iii) sending the first message and the second messages to different respective destinations.

- 35) (original) A system as defined in claim 34, comprising a server machine, said computer readable storage medium being located in said server machine, said server machine including a CPU for executing said program element.
- 36) (original) A system as defined in claim 35, wherein said computer constitutes a client machine, said client machine being in a network arrangement with said server machine.
- 37) (original) A system as defined in claim 36, wherein said client machine is operative to run a browser.
- 38) (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 37, wherein said first, second and third program element components send messages with said browser and cause said browser to display the information identifying the project, the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ and the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing information~~ to the user, respectively.
- 39) (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 37, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes information selected from the group consisting of time information and expense information.
- 40) (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 37, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes time information and wherein the action performed at the

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computer by the user to specify the time information includes entering through an input device a time interval.

- 41) (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 37, wherein the accounting information that is associated to the project ~~and related to billing~~ includes time information and wherein the action performed at the computer by the user to specify the time information includes starting and stopping a clock through an input device.
- 42) (original) A system as defined in claim 34, wherein said message generator program element component directs the second message to a knowledge database.
- 43) (previously presented) A system as defined in claim 42, wherein said program element further comprises a fourth program element component for causing the computer to display further information to the user, prompting the user to provide to the computer a search criteria for searching the knowledge database.
- 44) (previously presented) A system as defined in claim 43, wherein said program element includes a search engine to search the knowledge database on the basis of the search criteria to generate matching information.
- 45) (original) A system as defined in claim 44, wherein said fourth program element component causes the computer to display the matching information to the user.
- 46) (previously presented) A system as defined in claim 33, wherein the customer relation information that is associated to the project ~~but unrelated to billing~~ is selected from the group consisting of business development information, project notes and information relating to an

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order process.